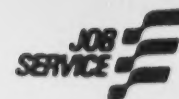




LOUISIANA LABOR MARKET INFORMATION



LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 94094

January, 1994

RELEASE DATE:
February 25, 1994

Due to conversion to 1990 census and changes in estimating methodology the following changes have been incorporated into the January, 1994 data:

Houma-Thibodaux Area's name has been changed to Houma Area.

Lafayette Area has added Acadia and St. Landry parishes to the area.

New Orleans Area has added St. James and Plaquemines parishes to the area.

Shreveport Area's name has been changed to Shreveport-Bossier City Area, and Webster parish has been added.

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THE LOUISIANA ECONOMIC SITUATION

Total nonagricultural employment in Louisiana during January was estimated at 1,627,200, a decrease of 30,500 employees from the December revised figure, but an increase of 12,100 from January of last year.

Employment in the goods producing industry was estimated at 322,200 for January. This was 10,000 below December's estimate, but 3,600 above January, 1993. Mining employment was down due to decreased activity in oil and gas exploration. Construction payrolls were lower in each segment due to project completions and adverse weather conditions. Both durable and nondurable goods displayed seasonal declines causing a negative movement in manufacturing.

Service producing employment, estimated at 1,305,000, was 20,500 less than December, but 8,500 higher than January, 1993. Transportation, communications, and public utilities employment was down, mainly due to a decrease in water transportation. Seasonal decreases in retail trade accounted for the loss in trade employment. A decrease in the finance, insurance, and real estate industry was centered in the real estate segment. Services employment was lower due to less business for hotels and other lodging places, business, amusement and recreation, educational, and engineering and management services. Reductions in state education payrolls, and local government, other than education, resulted in a downturn in government employment.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's 135,000 production workers in manufacturing decreased from \$562.03 in December to \$556.42 in January, a decrease of \$5.61 from December, but an increase \$31.87 from January of last year. Average hourly earnings were one cent lower than December and \$0.51 higher than January a year ago. Average weekly hours for January were 43.0, a decrease of 0.4 hours from the December revised level of 43.4 hours.

The January preliminary estimate reflects a redesign of the National Household Survey (CPS). Introduction of 1990 census population data is reflected in both the January preliminary and December revised figures. The January preliminary unemployment rate for Louisiana was 8.5 percent, an increase from the December revised rate of 7.5 percent. The national unemployment rate for January was 6.7 percent, an increase from the December rate of 6.4 percent. An increase in the December to January rate is not unusual. Unemployment for January increased to 163,300. The state's civilian labor force increased to 1,924,600 with an increase in total employment to 1,761,300.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Jan. 1994*	Dec. 1993**	Jan. 1993**	Net Change From	
				Dec. 1993	Jan. 1993
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1,627.2	1,657.7	1,615.1	-30.5	+12.1
GOODS PRODUCING	322.2	332.2	318.6	-10.0	+ 3.6
MINING	44.6	45.8	46.0	- 1.2	- 1.4
Oil and Gas Extraction	42.8	44.0	44.2	- 1.2	- 1.4
Nonmetallic Minerals	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	93.0	98.6	89.5	- 5.6	+ 3.5
General Contractors	15.1	15.9	14.2	- 0.8	+ 0.9
Heavy Construction, ex. Bldg.	37.3	39.8	35.7	- 2.5	+ 1.6
Special Trade Contractors	40.6	42.9	39.6	- 2.3	+ 1.0
MANUFACTURING	184.6	187.8	183.1	- 3.2	+ 1.5
Durable Goods	78.4	80.4	78.0	- 2.0	+ 0.4
Lumber and Wood Products	12.7	13.2	12.7	- 0.5	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	5.7	5.9	5.4	- 0.2	+ 0.3
Primary Metal Industries	3.0	3.0	2.8	0	+ 0.2
Fabricated Metal Products	13.6	13.9	13.9	- 0.3	- 0.3
Machinery, Except Electrical	12.6	12.9	12.4	- 0.3	+ 0.2
Electrical & Electronic Equip.	5.4	5.5	5.4	- 0.1	0
Transportation Equipment	21.2	21.8	21.3	- 0.6	- 0.1
Other Durable Goods (1)	4.2	4.2	4.1	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	106.2	107.4	105.1	- 1.2	+ 1.1
Food & Kindred Products	20.9	22.1	19.7	- 1.2	+ 1.2
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	11.4	11.6	11.4	- 0.2	0
Paper & Allied Products	11.9	11.9	12.0	0	- 0.1
Printing & Publishing	9.4	9.5	9.3	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Chemicals & Allied Products	30.5	30.3	30.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Inorganic Chemicals	7.1	7.2	7.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Organic Chemicals	10.5	10.5	10.8	0	- 0.3
Petroleum and Coal Products	12.5	12.4	12.7	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Petroleum Refining	11.4	11.3	11.6	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	9.6	9.6	9.6	0	0
SERVICE PRODUCING	1,305.0	1,325.5	1,296.5	-20.5	+ 8.5
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	104.8	106.7	103.8	- 1.9	+ 1.0
Railroad Transportation	4.8	4.8	5.0	0	- 0.2
Transportation, ex. Railroads	62.3	64.2	61.2	- 1.9	+ 1.1
Water Transportation	21.4	23.1	21.9	- 1.7	- 0.5
Communications & Public Util.	37.7	37.7	37.6	0	+ 0.1
Comm., ex. US Postal Service	15.5	15.7	15.7	- 0.2	- 0.2
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Serv.	22.2	22.0	21.9	+ 0.2	+ 0.3

LOUISIANA - CONTINUED
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	Net Change From	
	1994*	1993**	1993**	Dec.	Jan.
				1993	1993
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	377.4	389.1	375.5	-11.7	+ 1.9
Wholesale Trade	84.8	84.4	84.0	+ 0.4	+ 0.8
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	46.3	46.5	45.7	- 0.2	+ 0.6
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	38.5	37.9	38.3	+ 0.6	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	292.6	304.7	291.5	-12.1	+ 1.1
Bldg. Mat'ls. & Garden Supplies	10.9	11.3	10.4	- 0.4	+ 0.5
General Merchandise	40.2	43.7	39.6	- 3.5	+ 0.6
Food Stores	57.5	58.8	57.5	- 1.3	0
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	33.0	33.1	32.3	- 0.1	+ 0.7
Apparel and Accessory	15.3	17.6	15.8	- 2.3	- 0.5
Furniture and Equipment	10.4	10.7	10.6	- 0.3	- 0.2
Eating and Drinking Places	95.4	97.8	94.5	- 2.4	+ 0.9
Other Retail Trade	29.9	31.7	30.8	- 1.8	- 0.9
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	77.6	78.1	77.3	- 0.5	+ 0.3
Banking	27.8	27.8	27.4	0	+ 0.4
Insurance	26.7	26.7	26.8	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	408.1	412.0	400.4	- 3.9	+ 7.7
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	20.9	21.6	20.6	- 0.7	+ 0.3
Personal Services	15.8	14.9	15.6	+ 0.9	+ 0.2
Business Services	65.4	67.0	63.8	- 1.6	+ 1.6
Auto Repair, Services & Garages	11.9	11.7	11.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
Miscellaneous Repair Services	6.5	6.6	6.4	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Amusement & Recreation Services	13.5	14.2	12.2	- 0.7	+ 1.3
Health Services	140.6	140.6	136.9	0	+ 3.7
Hospitals	59.5	59.5	58.6	0	+ 0.9
Legal Services	16.2	16.3	16.2	- 0.1	0
Educational Services	26.9	27.7	26.7	- 0.8	+ 0.2
Social Services	25.3	25.3	25.4	0	- 0.1
Membership Organizations	26.4	26.3	26.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Eng., Acct. and Related Services	27.2	27.8	27.3	- 0.6	- 0.1
Miscellaneous Services	6.8	6.9	6.7	- 0.1	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	337.1	339.6	339.5	- 2.5	- 2.4
Federal	36.8	36.9	36.9	- 0.1	- 0.1
State and Local	300.3	302.7	302.6	- 2.4	- 2.3
State	103.4	105.1	104.7	- 1.7	- 1.3
Local	196.9	197.6	197.9	- 0.7	- 1.0

* Preliminary

**Revised

(1) Includes furniture and fixtures, professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries.

(2) Includes leather, rubber and textile products.

All estimates of nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication are prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and include all full-time and part-time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	<u>AVERAGE</u> <u>WEEKLY EARNINGS</u>			<u>AVERAGE</u> <u>WEEKLY HOURS</u>			<u>AVERAGE</u> <u>HOURLY EARNINGS</u>		
	Jan. '94*	Dec. '93**	Jan. '93**	Jan. '94*	Dec. '93**	Jan. '93**	Jan. '94*	Dec. '93**	Jan. '93**
ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	\$556.42	\$562.03	\$524.55	43.0	43.4	42.2	\$12.94	\$12.95	\$12.43
Durable Goods	516.70	529.25	467.46	44.2	44.4	42.0	11.69	11.92	11.13
Lumber & Wood Products	412.43	438.67	363.32	44.3	45.6	41.1	9.31	9.62	8.84
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	478.00	469.15	465.44	44.3	43.2	40.9	10.79	10.86	11.38
Fabricated Metal Products	468.90	440.43	420.00	43.7	41.2	42.0	10.73	10.69	10.00
Machinery, ex. Electrical	523.26	558.56	514.38	44.8	46.2	45.4	11.68	12.09	11.33
Electric & Electronic Equip.	957.44	980.95	723.22	48.7	50.8	43.1	19.66	19.31	16.78
Transportation Equipment	548.16	567.65	502.17	44.1	43.8	40.4	12.43	12.96	12.43
Nondurable Goods	587.58	587.35	571.98	42.0	42.5	42.4	13.99	13.82	13.49
Food & Kindred Products	321.68	344.04	314.19	37.8	41.5	37.9	8.51	8.29	8.29
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	218.10	224.76	235.34	34.4	33.9	36.6	6.34	6.63	6.43
Paper & Allied Products	654.60	683.11	613.68	44.5	44.1	43.4	14.71	15.49	14.14
Printing & Publishing	462.47	462.16	444.95	38.7	39.1	37.9	11.95	11.82	11.74
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	906.68	891.46	820.80	47.1	46.6	45.6	19.25	19.13	18.00
Petroleum & Coal Products	894.93	906.44	944.30	45.8	46.2	48.5	19.54	19.62	19.47
Petroleum Refining	922.41	927.99	974.65	45.8	46.1	49.2	20.14	20.13	19.81
MINING	689.88	652.81	637.55	50.1	48.5	47.9	13.77	13.46	13.31
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	591.37	596.73	561.18	40.7	40.9	39.8	14.53	14.59	14.10
BANKING	342.62	326.14	311.64	37.0	36.4	37.1	9.26	8.96	8.40

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 135,000 full-time and part-time workers in manufacturing and 80,800 nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Jan. '94*	Dec. '93**	Jan. '93**	Jan. '94*	Dec. '93**	Jan. '93**	Jan. '94*	Dec. '93**	Jan. '93**
ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	\$661.41	\$661.56	\$640.36	43.6	44.7	43.8	\$15.17	\$14.80	\$14.62
Petro-Chemicals	919.13	909.63	879.59	47.5	47.5	47.7	19.35	19.15	18.44

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 14,600 production workers and are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	\$575.09	\$572.03	\$535.10	43.7	43.8	42.2	\$13.16	\$13.06	\$12.68
Durable Goods	491.63	475.87	426.12	43.7	43.3	40.2	11.25	10.99	10.60
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	451.52	484.10	454.11	41.5	44.7	41.7	10.88	10.83	10.89
Fabricated Metal Products	474.59	438.61	413.08	43.5	41.3	40.3	10.91	10.62	10.25
Ship & Boatbld'g. and Repair	443.89	413.00	374.25	42.6	42.1	37.5	10.42	9.81	9.98
Nondurable Goods	643.70	650.62	628.21	43.7	44.2	43.9	14.73	14.72	14.31
Food & Kindred Products	392.61	423.04	406.14	39.3	43.3	40.9	9.99	9.77	9.93
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	187.97	216.19	198.71	35.6	38.4	34.8	5.28	5.63	5.71
Printing & Publishing	515.39	474.75	446.22	44.7	42.2	40.2	11.53	11.25	11.10
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	902.30	929.38	907.86	46.8	46.1	49.1	19.28	20.16	18.49

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 33,600 production workers and are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	\$566.02	\$589.64	\$542.70	40.2	41.7	40.2	\$14.08	\$14.14	\$13.50
Lumber and Wood Products	306.64	359.00	318.57	40.4	45.1	41.0	7.59	7.96	7.77
Food and Kindred Products	380.80	357.75	376.19	33.2	31.8	37.1	11.47	11.25	10.14
Printing and Publishing	354.61	387.83	374.13	34.8	37.8	36.5	10.19	10.26	10.25
Chemicals & Allied Products	600.28	603.94	614.61	45.1	43.2	42.8	13.31	13.98	14.36

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 15,200 production workers and are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

	PRELIMINARY Jan., 1994				REVISED Dec., 1993				REVISED Jan., 1993			
(in thousands)	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP.	RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP.	RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP.	RATE
LOUISIANA (SEAS. ADJ.)	1,924.6	1,761.3	163.3	8.5	1,876.8	1,735.9	140.9	7.5	1,894.8	1,750.2	144.6	7.6
LOUISIANA (UNADJUSTED)	1,889.0	1,706.0	183.0	9.7	1,846.9	1,714.3	132.6	7.2	1,859.6	1,695.0	164.6	8.9
METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/												
Baton Rouge 2/												
Houma 3/												
Lafayette 4/												
Lake Charles 5/												
Monroe 6/												
New Orleans 7/												
Shreveport- Bossier City 8/												

 *
 * THE DATA NORMALLY PRINTED HERE WERE NOT AVAILABLE AT PRESS TIME DUE *
 * TO CONVERSION TO 1990 CENSUS AND CHANGES IN ESTIMATING METHODOLOGY. *
 * THIS DATA WILL BE PUBLISHED AT A LATER DATE. *
 *

PLEASE NOTE The following MSA definitions have changed as of January, 1994: 4/, 7/ and 8/.

1/ Rapides Parish only. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes.
 3/ Includes Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes. 4/ Includes Acadia, Lafayette, St. Landry, and St. Martin parishes. 5/
 Calcasieu Parish only. 6/ Ouachita Parish only. 7/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles,
 St. James, St. John the Baptist, and St. Tammany parishes. 8/ Includes Bossier, Caddo, and Webster parishes.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index, sometimes called the "Cost of Living Index," is a monthly measure of the average change in prices in a fixed quantity of goods and services.

ALL URBAN CONSUMERS	INDEX	% CHANGE FROM PRIOR MONTH	% CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR
January 1994	146.2	+ 0.3	+ 2.5
January 1993	142.6	+ 0.5	+ 3.3

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, OTHER AREAS

PRELIMINARY JANUARY 94

REVISED DECEMBER 93

AREA	LABOR FORCE	EMPL	UNEMP RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPL	UNEMP RATE
OAKDALE (ALLEN)						
NAPOLEONVILLE (ASSUMPTION)						
BUNKIE (AVOYELLES)						
DERIDDER (BEAUREGARD)						
ARCADIA (BIENVILLE)						
COLUMBIA (CALDWELL)						
CAMERON (CAMERON)						
JONESVILLE (CATAHOULA)						
HOMER (CLAIBORNE)						
FERRIDAY (CONCORDIA)						
MANSFIELD (DESOTO)						
LAKE PROVIDENCE (E. CARROLL)						
CLINTON (EAST FELICIANA)						
VILLE PLATTE (EVANGELINE)						
WINNSBORO (FRANKLIN)						
COLFAX (GRANT)						
NEW IBERIA (IBERIA)						
PLAQUEMINE (IBERVILLE)						
JONESBORO (JACKSON)						
JENNINGS (JEFFERSON DAVIS)						
JENA (LASALLE)						
RUSTON (LINCOLN)						
TALLULAH (MADISON)						
BASTROP (MOREHOUSE)						
NATCHITOCHE (NATCHITOCHE)						
NEW ROADS (POINTE COUPEE)						
COUSHATTA (RED RIVER)						
RAYVILLE (RICHLAND)						
MANY (SABINE)						
GREENSBURG (ST. HELENA)						
MORGAN CITY (ST. MARY)						
HAMMOND (TANGIPAHOA)						
ST. JOSEPH (TENSAS)						
FARMERVILLE (UNION)						
ABBEVILLE (VERMILION)						
LEESVILLE (VERNON)						
BOGALUSA (WASHINGTON)						
OAK GROVE (WEST CARROLL)						
ST. FRANCISVILLE (W. FELIC.)						
WINNFIELD (WINN)						

 *
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 * TO 1990 CENSUS AND CHANGES IN ESTIMATING
 * METHODOLOGY. THIS DATA WILL BE PUBLISHED
 * AT A LATER DATE.
 *

 * PLEASE NOTE: DATA FOR THE FOLLOWING PARISHES ARE NOW BEING INCLUDED *
 * IN A MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREA. PLEASE SEE TABLE ON PAGE SIX. PARISHES *
 * AFFECTED: ACADIA, PLAQUEMINES, ST. JAMES, ST. LANDRY, AND WEBSTER. *

 NOTE: LABOR MARKET AREAS ARE DESIGNATED BY NAME OF PRINCIPAL TOWN, BUT INCLUDE
 ALL OF PARISH IN PARENTHESES.

ABOVE DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST 25. SUBTOTALS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO
 ROUNDING. RATES ARE COMPUTED FROM UNROUNDED DATA.

ALEXANDRIA AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Jan. 1994*	Dec. 1993**	Jan. 1993**	Net Change From	
				Dec. 1993	Jan. 1993
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	50.0	50.3	47.9	- 0.3	+ 2.1
GOODS PRODUCING	6.6	6.8	6.1	- 0.2	+ 0.5
MINING	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	3.0	3.2	2.5	- 0.2	+ 0.5
MANUFACTURING	3.5	3.5	3.5	0	0
Durable Goods	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
Nondurable Goods	1.3	1.3	1.3	0	0
SERVICE PRODUCING	43.4	43.5	41.8	- 0.1	+ 1.6
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	2.5	2.5	2.3	0	+ 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	11.1	11.3	10.5	- 0.2	+ 0.6
Wholesale Trade	2.1	2.1	1.8	0	+ 0.3
Retail Trade	9.0	9.2	8.7	- 0.2	+ 0.3
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
SERVICES	14.4	14.3	13.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.7
Health Services	6.6	6.6	6.6	0	0
GOVERNMENT	13.2	13.2	13.1	0	+ 0.1
Federal	2.4	2.4	2.4	0	0
State and Local	10.8	10.8	10.7	0	+ 0.1
State	4.9	5.0	5.0	- 0.1	- 0.1
Local	5.9	5.8	5.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria MSA was estimated at 50,000. This estimate was 300 less than the December revised total, but 2,100 more than January, 1993.

Goods producing employment was estimated at 6,600, down 200 from last month, but up 500 from the prior year. These changes were concentrated entirely in construction due to business fluctuations scattered throughout this industry. Both mining and manufacturing remained unchanged from the prior month's level.

Service producing employment was estimated at 43,400, down 100 from last month, but up 1,600 from the prior year. Typical part-time releases in retail trade resulted in an overall decline of 200 in total trade employment. Services employment had a minimal increase of 100 over the month. The largest over-the-year gain was centered in the services segment. Total government remained at 13,200 due to gains in local government which were offset by losses in state government.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Jan. 1994*	Dec. 1993**	Jan. 1993**	Net Change From	
				Dec. 1993	Jan. 1993
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	255.0	258.4	246.8	- 3.4	+ 8.2
GOODS PRODUCING	54.2	55.3	52.7	- 1.1	+ 1.5
MINING	0.8	0.9	0.8	- 0.1	0
CONSTRUCTION	30.6	31.3	28.8	- 0.7	+ 1.8
MANUFACTURING	22.8	23.1	23.1	- 0.3	- 0.3
Durable Goods	5.7	5.7	6.0	0	- 0.3
Nondurable Goods	17.1	17.4	17.1	- 0.3	0
Food & Kindred Products	1.5	1.7	1.5	- 0.2	0
Printing & Publishing	1.4	1.4	1.4	0	0
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	12.3	12.4	12.3	- 0.1	0
Other Nondurable Goods	1.9	1.9	1.9	0	0
SERVICE PRODUCING	200.8	203.1	194.1	- 2.3	+ 6.7
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	11.6	11.7	11.4	- 0.1	+ 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	56.1	57.2	54.2	- 1.1	+ 1.9
Wholesale Trade	13.3	13.3	13.1	0	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	9.0	9.0	8.9	0	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	4.3	4.3	4.2	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	42.8	43.9	41.1	- 1.1	+ 1.7
General Merchandise	6.0	6.4	5.8	- 0.4	+ 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	14.9	14.8	14.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.7
Banking	4.5	4.5	4.4	0	+ 0.1
SERVICES	62.9	63.1	60.1	- 0.2	+ 2.8
GOVERNMENT	55.3	56.3	54.2	- 1.0	+ 1.1
Federal	2.5	2.5	2.4	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	52.8	53.8	51.8	- 1.0	+ 1.0
State	28.4	29.5	28.1	- 1.1	+ 0.3
Local	24.4	24.3	23.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.7

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment for the Baton Rouge MSA declined to 255,000 in January, but remained above the year-ago revised level of 246,800. The majority of the losses were seasonal in nature.

The goods producing sector, after healthy increases in December, fell to a level of 54,200, triggered by losses occurring throughout the sector. Mining, after nine months of stability, suffered a minimal loss of 100. Job completions in all segments of construction resulted in a loss of 700 from the December revised level of 31,300. Seasonal downturns in food and kindred products, and less demand for chemical products, resulted in a decline of 300 in manufacturing.

The service producing sector, under the influence of seasonal losses, continued to move downward to a level of 200,800. Transportation, communications, and public utilities declined to 11,600 due to less business activity. With the holiday season coming to a close, most retail stores began laying off temporary help, causing trade to drop 1,100 in January. Less business or seasonal factors also affected the hotel, personnel supply, automotive repair, and amusement and recreation segments of the services industry. Additional hires in insurance carriers pushed the finance, insurance, and real estate segment upward to 14,900. The upturn in local government was overshadowed by seasonal non-faculty dismissals at state colleges and universities.

Average weekly earnings of the Baton Rouge MSA's 14,600 production workers in all manufacturing were \$661.41 for January, a decrease of \$0.15 from the December average. Compared to the prior year, weekly earnings were up \$21.05. Average weekly hours, at 43.6, decreased by 1.1 hours in January, while average hourly earnings increased by \$0.37 an hour. A shorter work week contributed to these changes.

The Baton Rouge Job Service Office served 2,386 individuals with new or renewal applications. A total of 1,528 referrals to current openings resulted in 140 placements during January.

HOUMA AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Jan. 1994*	Dec. 1993**	Jan. 1993**	Net Change From	
				Dec. 1993	Jan. 1993
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	59.7	60.9	57.9	- 1.2	+ 1.8
GOODS PRODUCING	13.5	13.6	12.8	- 0.1	+ 0.7
MINING	5.1	5.1	5.3	0	- 0.2
CONSTRUCTION	3.1	3.1	2.7	0	+ 0.4
MANUFACTURING	5.3	5.4	4.8	- 0.1	+ 0.5
Durable Goods	3.7	3.7	3.4	0	+ 0.3
Nondurable Goods	1.6	1.7	1.4	- 0.1	+ 0.2
SERVICE PRODUCING	46.2	47.3	45.1	- 1.1	+ 1.1
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	5.7	6.0	5.5	- 0.3	+ 0.2
Water Transportation	3.2	3.4	3.1	- 0.2	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.4	14.9	14.6	- 0.5	- 0.2
Wholesale Trade	2.7	2.9	2.7	- 0.2	0
Retail Trade	11.7	12.0	11.9	- 0.3	- 0.2
General Mdse. & App. & Acc.	2.3	2.4	2.3	- 0.1	0
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.3	2.3	2.1	0	+ 0.2
SERVICES	11.8	11.8	11.1	0	+ 0.7
GOVERNMENT	12.0	12.3	11.8	- 0.3	+ 0.2
Federal	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
State and Local	11.6	11.9	11.3	- 0.3	+ 0.3
State	3.2	3.5	3.2	- 0.3	0
Local	8.4	8.4	8.1	0	+ 0.3

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Houma MSA moved down to 59,700, a drop of 1,200 from December's revised level of 60,900. Employment increased by 1,800 from January one year ago. From December to January, the goods producing industry fell slightly by 100, while the service producing industry declined by 1,100.

Goods producing employment moved from 13,600 in December to 13,500 in January. Nondurable goods manufacturing was responsible for the small decrease. All of the other sectors remained stable throughout the industry.

Service producing employment dwindled from 47,300 in December, to 46,200 in January. Trade experienced a seasonal loss of 500. Transportation, communications, and public utilities employment was lower due to a drop in miscellaneous water transportation services. Government employment spiraled downward at the state government level.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	Net Change From	
	1994*	1993**	1993**	Dec.	Jan.
				1993	1993
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	135.8	138.5	130.6	- 2.7	+ 5.2
GOODS PRODUCING	33.8	34.7	31.9	- 0.9	+ 1.9
MINING	11.5	11.6	11.0	- 0.1	+ 0.5
CONSTRUCTION	6.4	7.0	5.9	- 0.6	+ 0.5
MANUFACTURING	15.9	16.1	15.0	- 0.2	+ 0.9
Durable Goods	5.2	5.2	4.6	0	+ 0.6
Nondurable Goods	10.7	10.9	10.4	- 0.2	+ 0.3
SERVICE PRODUCING	102.0	103.8	98.7	- 1.8	+ 3.3
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	8.1	8.1	7.6	0	+ 0.5
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	34.6	35.2	33.2	- 0.6	+ 1.4
Wholesale Trade	7.9	7.9	7.7	0	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	26.7	27.3	25.5	- 0.6	+ 1.2
General Merchandise	3.6	3.8	3.6	- 0.2	0
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	5.6	5.6	5.5	0	+ 0.1
Banking	2.1	2.0	2.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
SERVICES	32.3	32.6	31.0	- 0.3	+ 1.3
GOVERNMENT	21.4	22.3	21.4	- 0.9	0
Federal	1.3	1.3	1.3	0	0
State and Local	20.1	21.0	20.1	- 0.9	0
State	5.7	6.5	5.7	- 0.8	0
Local	14.4	14.5	14.4	- 0.1	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lafayette MSA was estimated at 135,800, a decrease of 2,700 from the December, 1993 revised estimate of 138,500. The loss of 2,700 jobs in the MSA was due to the end of the holiday season, the semester break at educational institutions, and poor weather conditions.

Goods producing employment was estimated at 33,800 during January. This estimate was 900 below the December figure. Mining employment was down 100 due to a slowdown in the exploration for oil and gas. Construction employment decreased by 600 as a result of poor weather conditions in the area. Manufacturing employment dropped by 200 due to seasonal factors in the food and kindred products nondurable goods segment.

Service producing employment in January was estimated at 102,000, a decline of 1,800 from the December estimate. A decline of 600 jobs in the trade sector was primarily due to the end of the Christmas season. The semester break at educational institutions in the area resulted in lower employment in the government sector.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Jan. 1994*	Dec. 1993**	Jan. 1993**	Net Change From	
				Dec. 1993	Jan. 1993
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	73.1	74.4	68.5	- 1.3	+ 4.6
GOODS PRODUCING	19.4	20.2	18.0	- 0.8	+ 1.4
MINING	1.4	1.4	1.3	0	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	7.1	7.8	5.7	- 0.7	+ 1.4
MANUFACTURING	10.9	11.0	11.0	- 0.1	- 0.1
Durable Goods	1.6	1.6	1.3	0	+ 0.3
Nondurable Goods	9.3	9.4	9.7	- 0.1	- 0.4
Chemical & Petro Products	8.6	8.6	8.9	0	- 0.3
SERVICE PRODUCING	53.7	54.2	50.5	- 0.5	+ 3.2
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	4.4	4.5	4.1	- 0.1	+ 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	16.3	16.7	15.4	- 0.4	+ 0.9
Wholesale Trade	3.3	3.3	3.1	0	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	13.0	13.4	12.3	- 0.4	+ 0.7
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.5	2.6	2.6	- 0.1	- 0.1
SERVICES	18.1	18.1	16.5	0	+ 1.6
GOVERNMENT	12.4	12.3	11.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Federal	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
State and Local	11.9	11.8	11.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
State	3.7	3.7	3.6	0	+ 0.1
Local	8.2	8.1	7.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.5

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lake Charles MSA was estimated at 73,100 in January. This was a drop of 1,300 from December's revised level of 74,400, but a rise of 4,600 over the year-ago figure of 68,500.

Goods producing employment declined by 800, with most of the reduction centered in the construction segment. There was a minimal loss of 100 in the nondurable goods manufacturing sector.

Service producing employment took a downturn of 500 in January. Most of the loss occurred in retail trade due to seasonal cutbacks after the holidays.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Jan. 1994*	Dec. 1993**	Jan. 1993**	Net Change From	
				Dec. 1993	Jan. 1993
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	61.7	62.8	60.7	- 1.1	+ 1.0
GOODS PRODUCING	11.3	11.5	11.1	- 0.2	+ 0.2
MINING	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2.9	3.1	2.7	- 0.2	+ 0.2
MANUFACTURING	8.1	8.1	8.1	0	0
Durable Goods	2.4	2.4	2.2	0	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	5.7	5.7	5.9	0	- 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	5.1	5.1	5.4	0	- 0.3
SERVICE PRODUCING	50.4	51.3	49.6	- 0.9	+ 0.8
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	3.4	3.4	2.9	0	+ 0.5
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	15.3	15.7	14.8	- 0.4	+ 0.5
Wholesale Trade	3.3	3.2	3.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	12.0	12.5	11.6	- 0.5	+ 0.4
General Mdse. & App. & Acc.	3.0	3.2	2.8	- 0.2	+ 0.2
Eating & Drinking Places	3.9	4.1	3.7	- 0.2	+ 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.3	4.3	4.2	0	+ 0.1
Banking	1.8	1.8	1.7	0	+ 0.1
SERVICES	15.8	15.8	15.5	0	+ 0.3
GOVERNMENT	11.6	12.1	12.2	- 0.5	- 0.6
Federal	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
State and Local	11.1	11.6	11.7	- 0.5	- 0.6
State	4.7	5.1	4.7	- 0.4	0
Local	6.4	6.5	7.0	- 0.1	- 0.6

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Monroe MSA was estimated at 61,700 during January. This estimate was 1,100 below the December revised estimate, but 1,000 above January, 1993.

Employment in goods producing was estimated at 11,300. Employment in mining, at 300, remained stable in January. Construction was down by 200 over the month, but rose 200 from January, 1993. Manufacturing, estimated at 8,100, was unchanged.

Service producing employment declined by 900 over the month. Trade decreased by 400 from last month, but increased 500 from one year ago. Government was down mostly in the state government sector.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Jan. 1994*	Dec. 1993**	Jan. 1993**	Net Change From	
				Dec. 1993	Jan. 1993
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	568.8	577.4	558.2	- 8.6	+10.6
GOODS PRODUCING	87.1	88.1	86.4	- 1.0	+ 0.7
MINING	14.0	14.1	14.5	- 0.1	- 0.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	13.6	13.7	14.0	- 0.1	- 0.4
CONSTRUCTION	25.7	26.5	24.1	- 0.8	+ 1.6
MANUFACTURING	47.4	47.5	47.8	- 0.1	- 0.4
Durable Goods	22.0	22.2	22.8	- 0.2	- 0.8
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	1.3	1.3	1.2	0	+ 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	2.4	2.4	2.3	0	+ 0.1
Machinery Inc. Electrical	4.1	4.3	4.1	- 0.2	0
Transportation Equipment	11.6	11.6	12.5	0	- 0.9
Ship & Boatbuilding & Repairing	9.1	9.1	9.9	0	- 0.8
Other Durable Goods	2.1	2.1	2.1	0	0
Nondurable Goods	25.4	25.3	25.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	5.4	5.4	5.3	0	+ 0.1
Apparel & Other Textile Products	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
Printing & Publishing	3.5	3.5	3.6	0	- 0.1
Chemicals and Allied Products	7.2	7.2	7.1	0	+ 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	4.9	4.8	5.0	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	2.2	2.2	1.9	0	+ 0.3
SERVICE PRODUCING	481.7	489.3	471.8	- 7.6	+ 9.9
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	42.1	43.9	43.0	- 1.8	- 0.9
Railroad Transportation	1.2	1.2	1.3	0	- 0.1
Trucking and Warehousing	8.4	8.4	8.2	0	+ 0.2
Water Transportation	10.8	12.6	12.7	- 1.8	- 1.9
Comm. & Public Util.	13.2	13.1	12.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	137.7	141.8	139.1	- 4.1	- 1.4
Wholesale Trade	32.8	33.2	32.5	- 0.4	+ 0.3
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	17.2	17.2	17.1	0	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	15.6	16.0	15.4	- 0.4	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	104.9	108.6	106.6	- 3.7	- 1.7
General Merchandise	12.1	13.2	12.7	- 1.1	- 0.6
Food Stores	20.2	20.7	21.0	- 0.5	- 0.8
Eating & Drinking Places	37.5	38.0	38.0	- 0.5	- 0.5
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	29.8	30.2	29.1	- 0.4	+ 0.7
Banking	9.6	9.6	9.3	0	+ 0.3
SERVICES	169.8	170.6	161.2	- 0.8	+ 8.6
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	13.6	13.7	13.3	- 0.1	+ 0.3
Health Services	48.3	48.2	45.6	+ 0.1	+ 2.7
Educational Services	18.6	18.3	17.1	+ 0.3	+ 1.5
GOVERNMENT	102.3	102.8	99.4	- 0.5	+ 2.9
Federal	17.5	17.6	17.0	- 0.1	+ 0.5
State and Local	84.8	85.2	82.4	- 0.4	+ 2.4
State	24.1	24.1	23.2	0	+ 0.9
Local	60.7	61.1	59.2	- 0.4	+ 1.5

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the New Orleans MSA was estimated at 568,800 in January. This was 8,600 less than the December revised estimate, but 10,600 above January, 1993.

Goods producing employment, estimated at 87,100, was 1,000 less than December, but 700 higher than last year's figure. Mining and manufacturing each had a minimal decrease of 100 over the month. Construction employment was down in each segment of the industry, with special trade contractors leading the decrease.

Service producing was estimated at 481,700 for January. This was 7,600 below December, but 9,900 above January one year ago. Less business at the local port was mainly responsible for the decrease in transportation, communications, and public utilities employment. Trade exhibited a seasonal decline due to the end of the holiday shopping season. Finance, insurance, and real estate employment declined, mostly in the real estate sector. The services industry was lower due to losses in the business services sector. Most of the decrease in government employment was the result of a seasonal decline in local education payrolls.

An estimated 33,600 production workers in manufacturing, in the New Orleans MSA, earned \$575.09 per week, up \$3.06 from last month's revised average. Average weekly hours were 43.7, down from 43.8 the previous month. Average hourly earnings were \$13.16, up from \$13.06 in December and \$12.68 in January of last year.

SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Jan. 1994*	Dec. 1993**	Jan. 1993**	Net Change From	
				Dec. 1993	Jan. 1993
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	154.4	155.6	149.9	- 1.2	+ 4.5
GOODS PRODUCING	31.9	32.1	30.3	- 0.2	+ 1.6
MINING	2.9	3.0	3.1	- 0.1	- 0.2
CONSTRUCTION	8.9	9.0	6.9	- 0.1	+ 2.0
MANUFACTURING	20.1	20.1	20.3	0	- 0.2
Durable Goods	14.0	14.0	14.4	0	- 0.4
Lumber and Wood Products	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Primary and Fabricated Metals	2.9	2.9	3.1	0	- 0.2
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	4.6	4.7	4.7	- 0.1	- 0.1
Other Durable Goods	5.3	5.2	5.4	- 0.1	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	6.1	6.1	5.9	0	+ 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Printing & Publishing	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Chemicals & Petroleum Products	2.1	2.1	2.0	0	+ 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	2.1	2.1	2.0	0	+ 0.1
SERVICE PRODUCING	122.5	123.5	119.6	- 1.0	+ 2.9
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	8.2	8.1	8.2	+ 0.1	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	36.4	37.2	35.1	- 0.8	+ 1.3
Wholesale Trade	8.7	8.7	8.7	0	0
Retail Trade	27.7	28.5	26.4	- 0.8	+ 1.3
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	6.7	6.7	6.8	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	40.1	40.4	38.6	- 0.3	+ 1.5
GOVERNMENT	31.1	31.1	30.9	0	+ 0.2
Federal	5.1	5.1	5.1	0	0
State and Local	26.0	26.0	25.8	0	+ 0.2
State	8.5	8.4	8.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Local	17.5	17.6	17.4	- 0.1	+ 0.1

SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

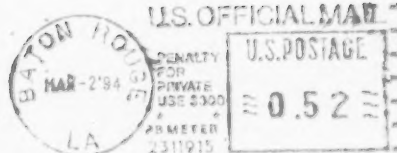
Total nonagricultural employment in the Shreveport-Bossier City MSA was estimated at 154,400 during January. This estimate was 1,200 below the December revised estimate, but 4,500 above the January, 1993 figure.

Employment in the goods producing industry was estimated at 31,900. Compared to a year ago, this sector is up by 1,600 jobs. Employment was down by 100 for the month in both the mining and construction segments.

Service producing employment declined 1,000 jobs over the month. Trade was down 800 as a result of the holiday season coming to an end. Services was down by 300 mostly due to less employment in the educational and social services sectors. Transportation, communications, and public utilities employment rose 100 in January.

An estimated 15,200 production workers in manufacturing, in the Shreveport-Bossier City MSA, had average weekly earnings of \$566.02 in January, compared to \$589.64 in December, 1993 and \$542.70 a year ago. Average weekly hours dropped to 40.2 in January, compared to 41.7 in December. Average hourly earnings declined to \$14.08 for January, compared to \$14.14 in December, and \$13.50 a year ago.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
RESEARCH & STATISTICS UNIT, ROOM 220
POST OFFICE BOX 94094
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804-9094



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